



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Monday, September 22, 2021; 12:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Call: 779-774-4672; PIN 0314

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Craig Thomas Tom Walsh Martesha Brown
John Phelps Mike Dunn

Board Members Absent: Michael Schirger Rudy Valdez
Howie Heaton Bobbie Holzwarth

Others Present: Alderman Chad Tuneberg
John Butitta, Winnebago County Liaison
Alderman Frank Beach
Tim Rollins, Attorney
Paul Nolley, Executive Director, Project First Rate
Beth Howard, Executive Director, Friends of the Coronado

Staff Present: Gretchen Gilmore; General Manager, BMO Harris Bank Center
Doug Johnson; Assistant General Manager, BMO Harris Bank Center
Jackie Powers; Finance Coordinator/RAVE Board Secretary, BMO Harris Bank Center

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

Craig Thomas states due to the current pandemic we are not able to meet in person. These minutes are being recorded and made available to the public.

MINUTES – The minutes from the August 30, 2021, meeting were reviewed and approved.

MOTION: To approve the August 30, 2021, minutes made by Tom Walsh, second by Mike Dunn. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Martesha Brown, and Mike Dunn.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance**

Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair

No report at this time.

- **Executive** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**

Craig Thomas informs the board that he and Tom Walsh met with representatives from Women’s March Rockford regarding concerns about shows that are booked and reiterated that the board will follow city ordinances and guidelines and there will be follow-up with their representatives. Mike Dunn questions who sets standards for performers and is informed that there is currently no set standard for performers. Mike Dunn states he is not in favor of making any changes to this area. Martesha Brown questions if there are any standards regarding if a performer may not fit culturally within the community and is informed that there is nothing specific in the management contract with ASM regarding that, but it is assumed there may be an internal ASM policy. Tim Rollins informs there is a community standards provision and that acts must comply with all applicable community laws and standards.

- **Davis Park** **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**

No report at this time.

- **Coronado** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**

Chairman Thomas informs the board he has spoken to City Administrator, Todd Cagnoni regarding the Corner Space at the Coronado which has been leased to Friends of the Coronado for \$1 per year and the lease is expiring. The consensus of Craig Thomas and the City is that the space could be used as a revenue generating space for patrons moving forward and it is a wasted resource to use it as an office space. John Phelps reminds the board that there has been an investment in upgrading the kitchen facilities at the Coronado specifically to use the corner space for more programming and have not yet seen a return on that investment. Mike Dunn asks for an update on the activities of Friends of the Coronado to determine their need for office space. Craig Thomas informs that Friends were instrumental in the recent marquee project. Beth Howard informs that the space has been used for corporate sponsors and special events prior to the pandemic shutdown. Beth Howard also informs that Friends has also done education programs with school children and outlines their recent fundraising efforts and expresses their desire to share the space. Mike Dunn inquires about a total of monies raised in the past eight years by Friends of the Coronado for use by the Coronado.

- **DEI Advisory Group** **Ms. Martesha Brown, Chair**

Martesha Brown informs the board that suggestions from the committee are forthcoming in October or November. Beth Howard updates the board regarding the Healing Illinois film and when a public viewing might take place in the Coronado. Martesha Brown thanks Beth Howard and Gretchen Gilmore for their work on such an impactful project for the diverse community.

- **Governance** **Mr. Tim Rollins, Attorney**

No report at this time.

- **Program Advisory Group** **Mr. Michael Schirger, Chair**

No report at this time.

- **Capital Improvement** **Mr. John Phelps, Chair**

No report at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Tom Walsh reminds the board that finances are ramping up and will look different due to staffing needs and the sale of the team, as well as marketplace impact on hiring and retention of employees then he defers to Gretchen Gilmore. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board of events in August and the increase in expenses due to the return of full-time employees and new hires. Gretchen Gilmore informs that although the finance department is significantly short staffed the audit is still on track.

MOTION: To approve the August 2021 financials made by Tom Walsh, second by Martesha Brown. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Martesha Brown, and Mike Dunn.

Gretchen Gilmore reports that there were some changes made to the budget after discussions with ASM Corporate. There will be an increase of fees to offset increased wages and costs. Tom Walsh states that the finance committee has reviewed the budget in detail and supports the budget as presented for the board's consideration.

MOTION: To approve the 2022 budget with the board's support to offer competitive pay in the markets we are in and noting that the board supports RAVE utilizing its resources to make sure we are hiring and retaining the top talent needed to run our organization made by Mike Dunn, second by John Phelps. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Martesha Brown, Mike Dunn.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT – Mrs. Gretchen Gilmore, GM

Gretchen Gilmore requests that Doug Johnson provide a program update. Doug Johnson outlines upcoming shows and hockey games and discusses that some shows may move their dates to the Spring. Gretchen Gilmore informs that two shows canceled due to Covid concerns. Tom Walsh asks if there is significant hesitancy to meet dates by shows and Doug Johnson informs it is fluid and he does not think it will be a big impact on the schedule. Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on the arena renovation status by bid package and states things are currently on schedule with some minor delays and that there have been some significant cost savings in Phase One that can hopefully be put towards Phase Two. Pat Tobler's contract was extended as construction manager at least through December. The reconsideration for the Shuttered Venues Grant for the arena will be submitted for a supplemental amount. Gretchen Gilmore details the Covid protocols and mitigations currently in place at the Coronado and the arena and that the United Center has reached out regarding the ability to show our air quality and the steps taken to be able to host events at full capacity. There will be an air quality study to show what we have done to make it a safe environment to open at full capacity. Gretchen Gilmore updates that we are contractually obligated to the Chicago Blackhawks to ensure Wi-Fi capabilities throughout the arena, and we are looking into upgrading our capabilities. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the BearCom security system is up and running and gives us the capability to monitor the building. Weekly meetings have begun with the IceHogs and the operations department is working on updating our capital improvement plan. Craig Thomas informs that there have been discussions with the Chicago Blackhawks regarding Covid protocols to be sure our implementations meet the needs of the Blackhawks and AHL and their events and that we will comply with the state requirements.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

None at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mr. Craig Thomas

Craig Thomas states he would like to get Tim Rollins's input regarding the upcoming resolutions before the next board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Tom Walsh, second by Martesha Brown. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Martesha Brown, and Mike Dunn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer